

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method manages lamp fault conditions in electronic ballasts for one or more gas discharge lamps. The method for fault management of electronic ballast for at least one gas discharge lamp includes the steps of: preheating the lamp filaments applying a low current for a predetermined time; igniting the lamp by increasing at a predetermined rate the voltage applied up to a predetermined strike value; monitoring the lamp current; repeating the steps of igniting the lamp and monitoring the lamp current for a predetermined numbers of times if the lamp current is over a predetermined threshold; and powering the lamp at normal operating conditions.

D:\NrPortbl\iManage\KRISTINEH\251886_1.DOC